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LESSONS FROM OUR PROFESSOR

Each human gives lectures as a mother or father in their life. People are different by nature. It also differs from people to people whether they give good lecture or bad lecture. Some take fewer courses, give many lessons or some take many courses, give fewer lessons.

Professors are generally in the group which gives too many lessons. But I must say a big part of their teachings is in their fields or disciplines. I believe that every professor wants to overcome these limits and wants to give life lessons to anyone around them such as students and assistants. I think it is more difficult.

We, the members of the urbanism group, ask ourselves how can we talk about the things we have learned from Kemal Ahmet Aru for 39 years, in 39 minutes.

At that time, undergraduate was 6 years and urban classes began in the fourth year. Prof. Oelsner was giving the lectures on urbanism. He was also working as an Urban Development Specialist at the Ministry of Public Works in Ankara, so he was coming for the lectures every two weeks. Kemal Ahmet conducted his projects in his absence. Kemal Ahmet was making development plans and winning competitions although he was very young. One day, he asked me if I could help him in his projects. I accepted with joy like every student would. It was the beginning of our lifelong relationship. When I first visited their house in Güzelbahçe, his son Emre was so little and his daughter Lale wasn't born yet.

That summer Kemal Ahmet rented a house on the Islands. Many times I went to visit them for the weekends. So I was becoming a member of the family. I did my first business trip with him. As a student I was proud of going to Kayseri with the Professor.

We had a couple of months until the graduation. It was in the middle of the last semester; Kemal Ahmet came to the class and told that Prof. Oelsner wanted to see me. We went to the Department. Prof. Oelsner offered me a position as assistant in the department of urbanism and asked my opinion. I was so happy.

This proposal was undoubtedly from Kemal Ahmet. Our class was 19 people and each teacher knows each student. But Professor Oelsner was coming to the class every two weeks, so he knew us less. He also didn't get involved with the school affairs. I was always with Kemal Ahmet but he had never showed his intention and never said that this proposal was coming from him. It was my first big life lesson from Kemal Ahmet...

Each professor has a role in the training of the assistants. But Prof. Kemal Ahmet Aru played a greater role in mine. It was a kind of "to row in the same boat". We made master plans together, took part in the competitions...

Every architect who has finished 45 years in profession has some piece

of work. But it is hard to compare the works of Kemal Ahmet with the architects. He did not only have architectural works but he also made development plans; wrote books, articles, papers; chaired symposia, congresses; gave seminars, conferences, ... PhD studies,

jury memberships... innumerable. My goal is not to count them. In fact, it is more or less known by everyone who knows how hard-working he was, his endless energy is admired.

I will talk about Kemal Ahmet Aru's aspects not known by everyone, except close friends. He is a very sophisticated person. The book of Turkish City shows what a great researcher he is.

Kemal Ahmet Aru showed the greatest example of devotion to the University. The project of ITU Campus is one of his sacred duties which he never left even in good or bad days.

Kemal Ahmet Aru is a modern and social man. He has reached the highest level social life requires. This characteristic feature of him has exceeded national borders. Among us, he has the greatest international reputation. He was always loved and respected.

Kemal Ahmet Aru likes the peace of mind, so he gives peace to any environment. Each people has different characters. Individuals can be perfect but it is hard to organize them. The different characters can also bring on some problems. Kemal Ahmet Aru is very tolerant but he does not tolerate unrest and destroys it. That is difficult, but he manages this hard work.

Last of his courses is a file. Sure he will go on teaching us. This file presents our teacher's work for more than a year about urban education. He definitely did a great job as usual, put forth a significant and useful work in his last two trips to United States. He has studied for decades in the Institute about the second stage of education. Although the first stage of education in urbanism was about to start, we were not actually prepared for it. The professor scanned American Universities in a systematic way; he applied to the universities for the necessary documents, collected all the documents and produced a very important study for our department.

A few days ago, while he was giving the file to me he said "Gündüz, we can meet a few times before I leave". Within a few days following the examination period we have not found this opportunity yet.

My dear professor, it is not important. We will always have the opportunity to meet as we live. After all, sincerely telling you, nobody can take your place.

Prof. Gündüz ÖZDEŞ

